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perhaps; and he may not know I am much more his servant than those who would flatter him in their verses. I have more esteem for him, and will stay till he is out of power, (according to my custom) before I say what I think of him. It puts me in mind of what was said to him once before by a poet. "In power your servant—out of power your friend," which a critic, who knew that poet's mind, said, should be altered thus, "In power your friend—but out of power, *your servant*." Such most poets are, but if Sir R. ever finds me the first low character, let him expect me to become the second. In the mean time I hope he will believe me his, in the same sincere, disinterested manner that I am, Dear Sir, Yours

A. POPE.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

AFRICAN INSTITUTION.

THE Fifth Report of the Directors of the African Institution, is almost wholly occupied with a detail of the measures of the Directors, for carrying into effect the Act of Parliament against the Slave-trade. "The civilization and improvement of Africa are indeed the great ends which the African Institution proposed to pursue. But what rational expectation can be formed of any material progress in the attainment of those ends, while the Slave-trade continues to flourish? This traffic stands opposed to all improvement. The passions which it excites and nourishes, and the acts of fraud, rapine, and blood, to which alone it owes its success, have a direct tendency to brutalise the human character, and to obstruct every peaceful and beneficial pursuit. Any advance in civilization is hopeless,

where neither property nor person is secure for a moment."

The coast of Africa, it appears, has swarmed, during the last year, with slave-ships; chiefly under Portuguese and Spanish colours, but concealing British and American property. Within that time, about twenty of them have been condemned in the Vice-Admiralty Court at Sierra Leone.—In order more effectually to repress the clandestine and fraudulent traffic in slaves, the Directors caused a bill to be brought into Parliament, declaring it a *crime*, and affixing to the crime a suitable *punishment*. The bill was founded upon, and conformable to the following resolutions of the Directors, viz.—"Resolved, That it would be proper to propose to Parliament, to make any direct act of dealing in slaves a clerigiable felony, and punishable as such with transportation, not exceeding fourteen years, or imprisonment and hard labour, at the discretion of the judge, for not less than three years, nor exceeding seven years—That this punishment shall be considered to attach upon any owner, part-owner, factor or agent, freighter or shipper, captain, mate, supercargo, or surgeon, knowingly and wilfully employed in fitting out, or navigating for the purpose of the slave trade, any ship or vessel, or craft or boat, whether British or foreign, although no actual dealing in slaves shall have taken place; also to all persons residing in any British fort, settlement, or factory, or within the jurisdiction of the British laws, and to all British subjects wheresoever residing or being, who shall kidnap, carry off, or procure, whether by fraud, violence, or purchase, or who shall forcibly confine any person for the purpose of selling or employing the same as a slave, contrary to the provision of the Acts of Parliament, already

passed for abolishing the Slave-trade. That all persons knowingly and wilfully aiding or abetting in any such transaction, as petty-officer or seaman on board any ship so employed as aforesaid; or otherwise knowingly and wilfully assisting or promoting any such transaction;—and all persons knowingly and wilfully insuring, or causing to be insured, any slaves or slave-ships, or any ships or goods to be employed in the Slave-trade; or knowingly and wilfully lending or advancing money, for any such purpose, by bottomry, respondentia, or otherwise, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and not as accessories to the felony, and shall be punished with fine and imprisonment.”

The Act framed upon these Resolutions, passed through the two Houses, without a division, and received the Royal assent, we believe, May 14, 1811. The Directors, anticipating such a result, thus express themselves in the Report:—“And here the Directors would pause for one moment, to express the exultation which they feel in contemplating the revolution that has been produced in the public sentiment respecting this great question. The nature and magnitude of the change can be duly estimated by those only who had an opportunity of observing the difficulties with which the leaders in the cause of abolition had to contend, at the commencement and in the progress of their undertaking; and who have now the satisfaction of seeing them supported with unexampled unanimity in Parliament, as well as of hearing the Slave-trade almost universally reprobated, and the efforts which have been made to effect its abolition as universally extolled. The members of the institution may well feel encouraged, by such an example not to relax their efforts, but to perse-

vere actively and unremittingly in the cause in which they have embarked. An extensive field lies before them; and benefits of the most momentous kind to Africa, and to the world, can hardly fail to crown their persevering exertions.”

The directors next proceed to state what has been done with a view to the restriction or entire prevention of the foreign Slave-trade.—“At the time when the society last met, great doubts were entertained, whether slave-ships trading under American colours, could be subjected to condemnation in our prize courts: and the prevailing opinion then was, that some express stipulation between the two governments, were previously necessary. The question, however, has since been happily decided in the affirmative.—In the month of July last, in the case of the *Amedie*, an American slave-ship, captured by a British ship of war, a case on which six others depended, was brought before the privy council, the supreme court of matters of prize in this country, by appeal from the Vice-Admiralty court of Tortola, in which the vessel or cargo had been condemned to the captors. The judgment of the court was pronounced by Sir W. Grant, master of the Rolls, in the following terms, viz.—This ship must be considered as being employed at the time of capture in carrying slaves from the coast of Africa to a Spanish colony. We think that this was evidently the original plan and purpose of the voyage, notwithstanding the pretence set up to veil the true intention. The claimant, however, who is an American, complains of the capture, and demands from us the restitution of property, of which he alleges he has been unjustly dispossessed. In all the former cases of this kind, which have come before this court, the slave-trade was liable to considerations very different

from those which belong to it now. It had at that time been prohibited (as far as respected carrying slaves to the colonies of foreign nations) by America, but by our own laws it was still allowed. It appeared to us therefore, difficult to consider the prohibitory law of America in any other light than as one of those municipal regulations of a foreign state, of which this court could not take any cognizance. But by the alteration which has since taken place, the question stands on different grounds, and is open to the application of very different principles. The slave-trade has since been totally abolished by this country, and our legislature has pronounced it to be contrary to the principles of justice and humanity. Whatever we might think as individuals before, we could not, sitting as judges in a British court of justice regard the trade in that light, while our own laws permitted it. But we can now assert that this trade cannot, abstractedly speaking, have legitimate existence. When I say abstractedly speaking, I mean that this country has no right to controul any foreign legislature that may think fit to dissent from this doctrine, and to permit to its own subjects the prosecution of this trade; but we have now a right to affirm that *primâ facie* the trade is illegal, and thus to throw on claimants the burden of proof that, in respect of them, by the authority of their own laws, it is otherwise. As the case now stands, we think we are entitled to say, that a claimant can have no right, upon the principal of universal law, to claim the restitution in a Prize Court, of human beings carried as his slaves. He must shew some right that has been violated by the capture, some property of which he has been dispossessed, and to which he ought to be restored. In this case, the laws

of the claimant's country allow of no right of property such as he claims. There can, therefore, be no right to restitution. The consequence is that the judgment must be affirmed."

It is satisfactory to us to learn from the Report that the Directors have reason to believe this judgment was in perfect conformity with the opinion of the highest legal authorities in the United States. The decision was no sooner known, than every American flag which covered the Slave-Trade disappeared.

"The course which has since been pursued by the Citizens of the United States embarking in this trade, has been, to call at some Spanish or Portuguese port; there to obtain fictitious bills of sale, and other papers, which might serve to disguise the real ownership.—This practise, however, to which on the first view, the case of the *Amedie* did not seem to apply, and which it was apprehended might be carried to an extent almost indefinite, has happily received a decisive check by a judgment recently pronounced by Sir Wm. Scott, in the High Court of Admiralty, in the case of a vessel called the *Fortuna*."

The Society is in correspondence with the Society for abolishing Slavery and the Slave-trade in the United States; by means of which it has communicated to the American government such information as it has acquired concerning the carrying on of the Slave-trade by American citizens. In consequence of these presentations, the President, in his Message to Congress, at the opening of the session in the month of November, 1810, took occasion to recommend the subject to the American legislature.

During the past year, a treaty of alliance has been concluded between the British government and the court of the Brazils; in which the Prince Regent of Portugal "engages

that his subjects shall not be permitted to carry on the slave-trade on any part of the coast of Africa, not actually belonging to his Royal Highness' dominions, in which that trade had been discontinued and abandoned by the powers and states of Europe, which formerly traded there."—"What may be the general feeling in Spain and Spanish America, on this subject, the directors have had no means of accurately ascertaining.—In the Caraccas, a province in which there are more slave-owners than in any other Spanish colony, Cuba excepted, one of the first acts of the junta, which has recently assumed the provincial government, has been to prohibit the African slave-trade. Considering the supposed prejudices of the American colonists, and the interests which they conceive to be involved in the slave-trade, the directors are disposed to view this proceeding as indicating a much more favourable spirit, in regard to this subject, than they could have conceived to exist in these colonies. The province of the Caraccas, it must be owned, from the peculiar state of its present relations to the mother country, does not afford a decisive test of the general disposition of the inhabitants of Spanish America. But the example of any proscription of the slave-trade in the American colonies of Spain, however partial, and from whatever motive arising, cannot but be beneficial, in proportion, at least, as it removes the obstacles which might have arisen, in the minds of the Spanish government, to the stirring at all of a subject, upon which it had been hitherto imagined that the colonists would not bear any interference."

A case of horrible barbarity is stated in the *Appendix* to the report. We know not how to abridge it, and yet we feel it due to the cause of

humanity to lay before our readers an instance of the outrages which are possible in the British colonies.

Edward Huggins, sen. esq. is an eminent and prosperous planter in the island of Nevis; the reputed owner of above 600 Negroes. He required of his slaves on one of his plantations to perform night work, which is both unusual and forbidden by law; some of the unhappy creatures refused to obey his commands. He resolved on signal vengeance; and not content with torturing his poor slaves, he resolved that the public market-place of Charlestown should be the theatre of the dreadful execution. Accordingly on the 23d of January, 1810, he went, attended by two of his sons on horseback, with upwards of twenty of his devoted victims, men and women, in custody of the drivers, through the streets of Charlestown, to the market-place; and there proceeded to indulge his cruelty to the utmost, during more than two hours in open day, and in front of the court of justice. The negroes were successively subjected to the lash; that is, to a whip as long as a London carman's, with a wire lash, inflicted upon the naked bodies of the victims, extended forcibly on the ground, with their faces downwards. "To one negro-man he gave, by the hands of expert drivers, no less than three hundred and sixty-five lashes; to another, one hundred and fifteen; to a third, one hundred and sixty-five; to a fourth, two hundred and fifty-two; to a fifth, two hundred and twelve; to a sixth, one hundred and eighty-one; to a seventh, one hundred and eighty-seven. To a woman, one hundred and ten; to another, fifty-eight; to a third woman, ninety-seven; to a fourth, two hundred and twelve; to a fifth, two hundred and ninety-one; to a sixth, eighty-three; to another, eighty-nine; and to va-

various other women and men, various other cruel measures of the same punishment." It appears that one of the women who was the most severely whipped, has died since the trial, or has since been discovered to be dead. Either this, or some other female sufferer, cried out during the whipping, that she was with child, but was disregarded, and her punishment went on. One of the drivers, or executioners, was brother to one of the men whom he was compelled to cut in pieces!—At the time this tragedy was acting, there were no less than seven magistrates in Charlestown; four of them within hearing of the lash; and two of the four *Reverend pluralists*!—The House of Assembly at Nevis, however, shocked at the report of this affair, resolved to make it the subject of legal investigation; publicly declaring their abhorrence of it. An indictment was preferred and found against Huggins, and the facts as here stated were fully proved, and indeed not disputed on the part of the defendant: yet, after a short deliberation, the jury brought in a verdict of *Not Guilty*! Emboldened by this verdict, Huggins prosecuted the printer of the Gazette of the island of St. Christopher, for inserting in his paper the resolutions of the Nevis assembly, sent to him by the assembly itself; and the printer was found guilty of a libel, and sentenced to a month's imprisonment, and to find bail to keep the peace for three years! In a letter to Governor Elliot, from J. W. Tobin, esq. of Nevis, Huggins is accused of various negro-murders.—Full accounts of this man's conduct have been transmitted to the Government; and the Earl of Liverpool has instructed Governor Elliot to degrade the magistrates who witnessed, without interference, the cruelties in the market place of Charlestown, and to

inquire into, and report, any other instances of mal-administration in the islands.

"In the Island of Trinidad, something has been done to meliorate the condition of the slaves, merely by adhering to the wholesome provisions of the Spanish Slave code, which forms, according to the articles of capitulation, the law of the island, but which had entirely fallen into disuse, since the colony came into our possession. The beneficial nature of this code may be inferred from the following brief sketch of its principal regulations.

"It secures to slaves the right to redeem themselves, at a fair price, and gives the judge a power to deprive an inhuman master of all his slaves. It gives a right to the slave to have a weekly portion of his time for his own benefit, and very materially restrains the master's power of punishment. It gives freedom to every female slave who has cohabited with her master; and in failure of lawful children, the illegitimate offspring, of whatever colour, may, after any act of acknowledgment by the father, inherit his property, and succeed to the mother's without any such act."

"At Sierra Leone, the number of children who are enjoying the benefits of education, are stated to be between two and three hundred. A most liberal offer has lately been made to the Directors, by the institution for promoting the British system of education. The committee of which institution has undertaken to provide with board and lodging, free of expense, at the Royal Free School in the borough of Southwark, two African youths to be selected by the Directors; Mr. Joseph Lancaster having agreed to superintend their instruction, and to qualify them for schoolmasters.—The Directors have accepted this

offer, and have taken the necessary measures for carrying the plan into execution."

Abstracts of the Acts of Parliament, orders in Council, and judgments of prize-courts, relating to the abolition, have been industriously circulated by the Society, throughout the British navy.

The property of the institution is on the increase; it amounted on the 31st of December 1810, to £.4936 9s. 10d

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON EDUCATION.

THERE is a fashion in public sentiment. At one time the theatre, harp societies, and the new academical institution take their turn to occupy the fleeting enthusiasm of the day. Now the instruction of the poorer classes under the Lancasterian system comes in for its little hour of engrossing public attention. This is certainly more laudable than many of the frivolous pursuits of fashion, and if steadily persevered in, may do much good. But I am afraid of the fickleness of fashion in its giddy whirl interfering to withdraw public attention from this subject. To facilitate and cheapen the modes of communicating instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic, is a plan alike recommended by benevolence and the soundest policy. These useful branches of instruction have been compared to forming roads through an uncultivated country, which tend most essentially to the civilization of the inhabitants. So with regard to individuals, this kind of instruction may materially contribute to enable them to proceed in the journey of life to the acquisitions of higher attainments in the grade of intellectual civilization. Some are afraid of instructing the poor, lest they should better understand

their rights. I am an ardent advocate for this instruction, because I am persuaded, that the more fully a man understands his rights, if he also understand and practise his duties, he becomes a more valuable citizen and is better fitted to support his proper rank in society.

But while education, in some degree, the fashion of the day, I am desirous to turn public attention to look at home, and to urge parents to see how their respective families are educated. I address myself to the classes of society above the lowest, and from these to the higher ranks.

I happened to pass through the streets of Belfast lately, about the hour of ten in the morning, and my attention was engaged by seeing so many children hastening in every direction to their respective schools. Viewed superficially, this was a pleasing sight. But when I considered the subject more attentively, I feared much was wanting in the system of education, and much was defective in parental vigilance on this subject. Many parents think they discharge their duty by sending their children to school, without scarcely suffering a thought to occupy their attention, whether the school to which they consign their children, and the probability of their future improvement, is the most suitable. Various are the motives of the preference. Some send to the nearest. Others because their friends send their children. Some select a school on one motive of fashion or prejudice, and others on another.

Immersed in business, or in pleasure, many parents will not take time to examine minutely, and form a correct judgment as to the most suitable motives for preference; but submit the most important trust of forming the infant mind almost to the chance of accident. A superficial manner of taking matters on